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By DAVE BLAIKE

OTTAWA CP - Canada collects intelligence information to protect national security and sometimes shares secrets with allies, but no agents are sent abroad to spy on other countries, Prime Minister Trudeau said Thursday.

"We have never to my knowledge, certainly not under my government, engaged in any espionage abroad in the sense that we have been looking for information in an undercover way," he told the Commons.

His remarks were prompted by a flurry of opposition questions about a CBC television program on intelligence gathering.

The program, aired Wednesday, was branded "mischievous and misleading" by External Affairs Minister Mitchell Sharp. Former prime minister John Diefenbaker said it might harm Canada-United States relations.

Mr. Trudeau said he knew some of the allegations in the program were false, but no government spokesman dismissed it as entirely inaccurate.

The program said the communications branch of the National Research Council functions as an intelligence agency and has close ties with the United States National Security Agency NSA.

NSA has connections with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency CIA.

One NSA officer said during the program that there is an agreement between Canada, Australia, Britain and the United States to monitor communications in all parts of the world. And, a former state department spokesman alleged that the Distant Early Warning DEW line of radar stations across northern Canada is also used for this purpose.